

## The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin



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### **MENOMINEE, MOHEGAN TRIBES COME TOGETHER IN KENOSHA TO REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO WISCONSIN**

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*Meeting of two nations underscores value of proposed Kenosha entertainment center  
and casino to Wisconsin tribe, Wisconsin community and Wisconsin economy*

KENOSHA, Wis. – The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and the Mohegan Tribe, who are working together on the Menominee's proposed Kenosha entertainment center and casino project, today reaffirmed their commitment to Kenosha and Wisconsin and celebrated the thousands of jobs and billion-dollar economic benefits that cooperation between the two tribes will bring to the Badger State.

In a ceremony at Dairyland Greyhound Park, Menominee Tribal Chairperson Lisa Waukau and Mohegan Tribal Chairman Bruce "Two Dogs" Bozsum signed a joint proclamation reinforcing the Tribes' commitment to bettering the Kenosha community, strengthening the State of Wisconsin and working together in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation to make the proposed entertainment center and casino a reality. The two were joined by members of the Menominee Tribal Legislature and the Mohegan Tribal Council.

"The relationship between the Menominee and the Mohegan is an outstanding example of a Tribe that has realized the major economic benefits of gaming helping a fellow Tribe lift itself from poverty, provide for its members and future generations, and benefit Kenosha, all of Southeastern Wisconsin and the entire state," Waukau said. "The Mohegan are among the foremost experts on tribal gaming in the United States, and their involvement and support of Menominee, Kenosha and Wisconsin is a model for Indian Country and the rest of the country to follow."

The 1,700-member Mohegan Tribe, which operates the renowned Mohegan Sun resort and casino in Uncasville, Conn., has been part of the Kenosha effort since Menominee introduced its proposal in 2004. In addition to serving as the project developer, plans call for Mohegan to manage the entertainment center for its first seven years of operations. The Mohegan have no equity interest in the project, and will leave it after seven years.

"Menominee is one of the largest and poorest Tribes in Wisconsin," Waukau said. "We were disappointed when the Forest County Potawatomi refused our offers to partner in Kenosha, choosing instead to wage a multimillion-dollar campaign to try to kill our project, hurt our Tribe and avoid potential competition for their own of Gresewaton casino in Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley. We are pleased that the Mohegan Tribe has a more benevolent and caring view – while the majority of Kenosha proceeds will always go to the State of Wisconsin, our Wisconsin Tribe and the Kenosha community, the Mohegan see value in helping a fellow Tribe succeed."

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Bozsum said he and other Mohegan tribal leaders have gotten to know many in the Kenosha community.

"As this project has achieved many significant milestones, from the overwhelming referendum victory to public hearings crowded with supporters, to regional approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, we are grateful to the people of Kenosha for their steadfast support and commitment to this project," he said. "Our Council has come here today to reaffirm our pledge to help Menominee provide for its people and bring good-paying jobs with benefits and other economic positives to this community and the State of Wisconsin. In visiting Kenosha, we again find an opportunity to thank the many Southeastern Wisconsin citizens who have supported this project for so long."

With more than 8,100 members, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin is one of the state's largest Indian tribes and also one of its poorest. The Tribe, which was terminated by Congress in 1954 and restored in 1973, is still struggling financially to overcome that devastating period in its history.

In order to provide for the significant health care, educational and other needs of its members, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin announced plans to build an \$808 million entertainment center and casino at Kenosha's Dairyland Greyhound Park in January 2004. The project would create more than 3,000 jobs and pay state and local government over \$2 billion – more than any other Indian tribe or Wisconsin business – over the facility's first 25 years of operation. Economic analyses, including one performed for the Forest County Potawatomi Community, indicate there is ample room in the Southeastern Wisconsin gaming market for an expanded Potawatomi casino in Milwaukee and a new Menominee casino in Kenosha to succeed.